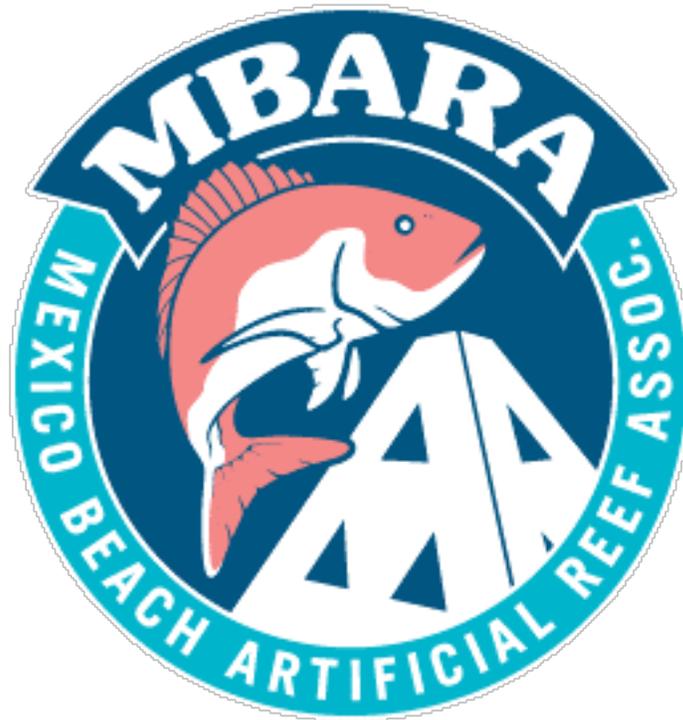


**Information, Rules, and
Frequently Asked Questions
26th Annual MBARA Kingfish Tournament
Saturday, July 30, 2022**

Updated 7/13/2022



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Tournament Information

(For official rules, refer to Official Tournament Rules section)

We are getting ready for our 26th Annual Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association Kingfish Tournament. Expect another great tournament. We have new sponsors, new T-shirt with another beautiful color, and new prizes. ***There are a lot of changes to the tournament. Be sure to read all the information and rules before you register!***

Purpose of the Tournament

This is charitable fundraising event to build artificial reefs. All proceeds will be used to create more wonderful marine habitat and improve our fishery for everyone to enjoy.

Date, Time, and Location

All times are **Central Daylight Time (CDT)**. This is a ONE DAY tournament.

Captains Party: Friday, July 29, 2022, 5:00 pm--7:00 pm, **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp**

Food served 5:00 pm—6:00 pm, Door prizes at 6:00 pm.

Fishing: Saturday, July 30, 2022, Open/Professional/Masters Division 12:00 am--6:00 pm.

Recreational Division 5:00 am--6:00 pm.

Weigh-in: Saturday, July 30, 2022, **2:00 pm--6:00 pm, Mexico Beach Boat Ramp.**

Tournament Divisions

There are two boat divisions, Recreational and Open/Professional/Masters (OPM):

- **Recreational Division** is for any boat smaller than 26 feet in length with no professionals on board (see OPM Division).

- **OPM Division** is any boat that meets one or more of the stipulations below:

- Boat 26-feet or larger, or

- Has a person on board that is or was **(past or present)** a professional tournament fisherman or recreational for hire/commercial Captain, guide, crew member, or fisherman in the business of fishing or harvesting seafood, or

- Charter boats with recreational anglers on board.

Any boat fishing in the Recreational division reported and found to have a person on board meeting criteria of the OPM division will be disqualified for fraudulent entry and forfeit all entry fees and prizes. Boats under 26' can enter open division but can't fish both open and recreational division.

TOURNAMENT PRIZES

Recreational Division

King Mackerel:

- 1st Place** - \$3,000 sponsored by Jay Rish Gulf Coast Real Estate Group.
- Name an existing reef valued at \$2500 sponsored by MBARA.
- 2nd Place** - SIMRAD NSX 3012 Smart Chartplotter & Fishfinder with Active Imaging, \$2,999 value, sponsored by SIMRAD.
- 3rd Place** - \$1,000 sponsored by Mexico Beach Liquor and Market.
- 4th Place** - \$300 and custom spinning rod by Tom's Fishin Styx.
- 5th Place** - \$200.

Spanish Mackerel: - \$1,500 sponsored by Cone Heads 8020 & The Brick Wall.

OPM Division:

King Mackerel:

- 1st Place** - \$3,000 sponsored by Mexico Beach Marina
- Name an existing reef valued at \$2500 sponsored by MBARA.

Pelagic Purse (see Official Tournament Rules section):

- \$2,500 sponsored by Yamaha Marine.

Ladies Division King Mackerel: (Open to Recreational and OPM Divisions for additional fee)

- \$500 and Custom Rod sponsored by KC Sportfishing.

Juniors Division King Mackerel: (Open to Recreational and OPM Divisions for additional fee)

- 1st Place** - \$500 sponsored by Todd Krause.
- \$200 gift card from Georgia Outdoors.
- 2nd Place** - \$300 sponsored by Todd Krause.
- \$100 gift card from Georgia Outdoors.
- 3rd Place** - \$200 sponsored by Todd Krause.
- \$50 gift card from Georgia Outdoors.

REGISTRATION

- Registration fee for Recreational and OPM Divisions is \$200 per boat.
- Ladies Division is \$25 per boat in addition to the registration fee.
- Junior Division is \$25 per boat in addition to the registration fee.
- Number of anglers per boat is unlimited.
- **Online preregistration starts on May 1st and will end 12:01 AM on Thursday, July 28th.**
- Online preregistration can be found at <https://www.mbara.org/tournament-registration.cfm>
- **Online preregistration qualifies you for a long sleeve performance shirt valued at \$32. Take your printed registration form to Mexico Beach Marina and pick yours up early.**
- This is a fundraising event, no refunds.
- Final registration is at the Captains Party on Friday, July 29, 5:00 to 7:00 pm CDT at the **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp**. In person registration qualifies you for a short sleeve shirt.
- Please print out a copy of your online registration for your records.

CAPTAINS PARTY

- Friday July 29, 2022, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm CDT, **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp**.
- Sausage, gumbo, soft drinks, and beer served from 5:00-7:00 pm.
- Door prizes will be given out at 6:00 pm. See below for more information.

Directions: **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp** is on the north side of Hwy 98 at the west end of Mexico Beach. The vehicle entrance is from Hwy 98 west of the Mexico Beach Canal.

Parking: We anticipate the Boat Ramp Parking Area to be congested with vehicles and boat trailers. Additional parking for vehicles will be available at the Mexico Beach Pier Parking Area with shuttles to and from.

Door Prizes

- The Captains Meeting is not mandatory, but you must be present to win door prizes.
- Door prize drawing begins at 6:00 pm CDT.
- If you preregistered online, your door prize ticket will automatically be deposited in the door prize raffle container. You must be present to win when your ticket is drawn
- Preregistered boats can pick up their long sleeve t-shirt at the Captains Party.
- Boats registering at the Captains Party will receive a short sleeve shirt at the party.
- If you register at the Captains Party, claim your door prize ticket and drop it in the container provided to compete for door prizes.
- Tickets will be drawn out of the container and prizes awarded at the Captains Party.
- Both styles of shirts will be available for pick up at the Mexico Beach Marina before and after the event, during regular business hours.

WEIGH-IN

Date: Saturday, July 30, 2022

Time: 2 :00 pm to 6:00 pm CDT

Location: Mexico Beach Boat Ramp

Parking: We anticipate the Boat Ramp Parking Area will be highly congested with tournament fisherman vehicles, boat trailers, and spectators. Spectators will be redirected to use Mexico Beach Pier Parking Area with shuttles provide. Tournament anglers should be prepared for increased congestion/traffic delays and plan accordingly to weigh in on time.

- **Angler and FISH must be in line:** You must be in line with your fish ready to weigh-in and recognized by the Weighmaster/Staff by 6:00 pm CDT. You must have **all** your fish in possession to enter the line. Anglers in the line without their fish when the horn blows will not be allowed to weigh.
- **Weight Ticket:** You must collect your weight results ticket. If your fish doesn't place, you still need to get a weight ticket in case a boat drops out of the competition.
- **Lie Detector Test:** All winners may be subject to a lie detector test administered by the by the Bay County Sheriff's Department. Any angler failing the test or refusing to take the test will be automatically disqualified as well as the boat used by that angler.
- **Weighmaster:** Bo Blue. Bo has numerous years of tournament experience to ensure a fair and accurate weigh-in. We use Official Tournament Approved Scales measuring in increments of 1/100th of a pound.

BAD WEATHER and WEATHER DATE

In case of bad weather or sea conditions, monitor the MBARA homepage at www.mbara.org and MBARA Facebook (@MBARAreefs). We will announce any change of date by noon on the Wednesday before the tournament date. That way everybody will know where to get information concerning tournament changes. The weather date will be the first Saturday in August.

Official Tournament Rules

These are the official tournament rules. The rules provided anywhere else, such as the tournament magazine, are not the official rules. They are only there for quick reference.

1. **Boat Divisions and Special Prize Categories:**

- There are two boat divisions, Recreational and Open/Professional/Masters (OPM).
- You can only register in one of the boat divisions, either Recreational or OPM.
- There are three special prize categories: Pelagic Purse, Ladies, and Juniors.
- Ladies and Juniors may compete in the Recreational or OPM divisions but not both.

- **Recreational Division** boats must meet the following stipulations:
 - Any boat smaller than 26 feet in length, AND
 - Have no professionals on board (see OPM Division).
 - Length is determined by your state registration form.
 - Number of anglers per boat is unlimited.
 - Recreational boats may win in more than one prize category but may only win once in each category. The categories are King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, Ladies King Mackerel, and Juniors King Mackerel.
 - **Any boat fishing in the Recreational division reported and found to have a person on board meeting criteria of the OPM division will be disqualified for fraudulent entry and forfeit all entry fees and prizes.**

- **OPM Division** is any boat that meets one or more of the stipulations below:
 - Boat 26-feet or larger as determined by the state registration form, or
 - Any boat wishing to register in OPM Division regardless of size, or
 - Has a person on board that is or was **(past or present)** a professional tournament fisherman or recreational for hire/commercial Captain, guide, crew member, or fisherman in the business of fishing or harvesting seafood, or
 - Charter boats with recreational anglers on board.
 - OPM boats may win in more than one prize category but may only win once in each category. The categories are King Mackerel, Pelagic Purse, Ladies King Mackerel, and Juniors King Mackerel.

- **Pelagic Purse (PP)** is only open to the OPM Division
 - No additional fee is required to enter the PP.
 - Kingfish, Wahoo, and Mahi species are eligible for the PP.
 - One or two fish may be weighed for the PP aggregate weight. If weighing two fish, they must be of two different eligible species.
 - If a Kingfish is weighed for the OPM Kingfish 1st Place prize, it will be automatically counted as one fish in the PP aggregate allowing either a Wahoo or Mahi to be weighed and added to the aggregate weight.
 - The winner will be determined by the greatest aggregate weight.

- **Ladies Division** is an additional \$25 per boat and is optional.
 - Ladies are any female 16 years or older on the scheduled tournament date.
 - Both Recreational and OPM boats may register for the Ladies Division.
 - Ladies can win two prizes with the same King Mackerel, Ladies and OPM/Recreational Divisions.
- **Juniors Division** is an additional \$25 per boat and is optional.
 - Juniors include anyone under the age of 16 on the scheduled date of the tournament.
 - Both Recreational and OPM boats may register for the Juniors Division.

2. **Boats can win in four different categories; but only win one prize per category.** They must be registered in the Ladies and Junior Divisions to win in those categories. Recreational categories are King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, Ladies King Mackerel, and Juniors King Mackerel. OPM categories are King Mackerel, Pelagic Purse, Ladies Division and Junior Division.

3. Participants must abide by State of Florida Fishing Rules.

4. IGFA rules apply; only the angler claiming the catch can touch the rod or fishing line at any time from hook up to landing. Another angler can gaff fish but can't touch fishing line.

5. No mutilation of any fish is allowed.

6. No fish may be transferred from one boat to another.

7. Fish weighed must be caught during the day and designated times of the tournament.

8. Boat registrations are \$200. Optional divisions for Ladies and Juniors are \$25.00 per boat per division.

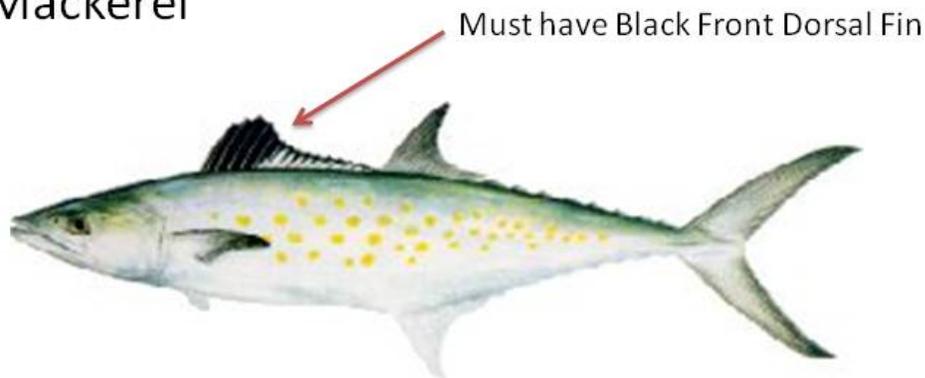
9. Regardless of your departure time, fishing begins at 5:00 am CDT for Recreational division and midnight for the OPM Division.

10. Weigh-in ends at **6:00 pm CDT**. At the sound of the horn all anglers must be in line at the scales with any fish they wish to weigh and be recognized by the weighmaster/staff. If you are late or don't have your fish in the line, you do not weigh.
11. Participants may preregister online at <https://www.mbara.org/tournament-registration.cfm> and get a long sleeve performance tournament shirt valued at \$32.00.
12. Keep a copy of your registration form in your possession in case there is a question about your registration. We will use a registration roster at weigh-in to check for your registered boat name. Yellow or online copy is not required to weigh in, but you must be able to produce a copy if questioned.
13. Any and all disputes/protests will be settled by the Tournament Committee. Any protest must be in writing and submitted to the Tournament Director with a \$200 cash deposit. Protests must be submitted prior to presentation of awards that commence at the end of the weigh-in. Upon presentation of awards, protests will no longer be accepted. Protests judged as valid resulting in a disqualification of a boat by the Tournament Committee will receive refund of the deposit. Protests judged as invalid by the Tournament Committee will forfeit refund of the deposit. Disqualified boats will be ineligible for all tournament prizes.
14. All fish are subject to inspection.
15. In case of a tie (two fish weigh the same), the first fish to the scale wins.
16. Winners of prizes over \$500 are required to fill out an information form for tax purposes.
17. All boats must depart from waterways of or between Mexico Beach, Saint Joe Bay, and Indian Pass. No exceptions!

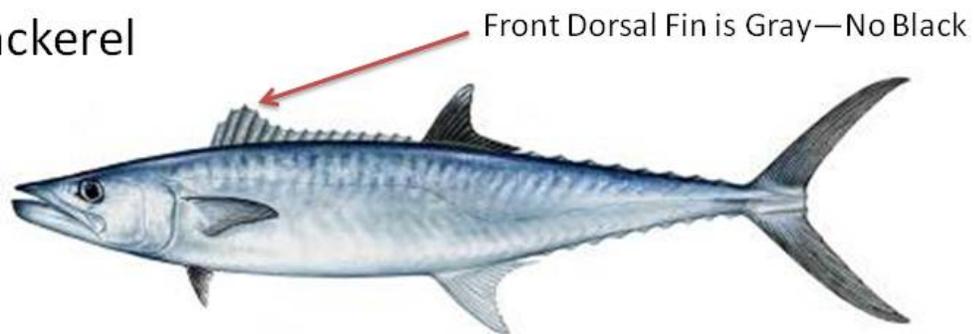
18. Spanish Mackerel must have a sufficient amount of the **black front dorsal fin** present for positive and unquestionable identification by the weighmaster. No exceptions!

Know the Difference!

Spanish Mackerel



King Mackerel



19. Properly care for fish. All fish to be weighed in the tournament must be well preserved as a fresh catch of the tournament day. It's highly recommended fish be immediately chilled and properly stowed to prevent deterioration, damage, and mutilation prior to weigh-in. Fish showing signs of improper care will be suspected as fish caught prior to tournament day and rejected by the weighmaster.
20. All winners may be subject to a lie detector test administered by the Bay County Sheriff's Department. Any angler failing the test or refusing to take the test will be automatically disqualified as well as the boat used by that angler.
21. All entrants/participants agree to allow tournament officials to use photos for media and promotional purposes.
22. All times are in Central Daylight Time (CDT).

23. All entrants/participants must collect their weight tickets from the Weighmaster prior to departing the scales. You must review your tickets to ensure your fish weights, boat/Captains name was recorded accurately prior to depart the scales to ensure tournament scoring credits are correct. Once you depart the scales after weighing your fish, you will not be allowed to weigh again or request corrections.

MBARA Kingfish Tournament Committee

Capt Mitch Coleman, Tournament Director

Bo Blue, Tournament Weighmaster

Capt Kevin Lanier

Bonita Thompson

Cheshire Trawick

Commonly asked questions:

1. Can I leave early from the dock? When you leave is up to you. You can leave very early on Saturday morning, but Recreational boats may not start fishing until 5:00 am on Saturday. You are on your honor not to fish before 5:00 am. OPM Division starts fishing at midnight.
2. Can I leave from another dock somewhere outside of Mexico Beach? Yes, you can leave from the waterways of Mexico Beach, St Joe Bay, and Indian Pass. No exceptions!
3. Do I have to weigh my fish at Mexico Beach Boat Ramp? Yes.
4. Can I park my boat at another place and bring my fish to the scales by truck or car? Yes, as long as you make it to the scales before **6:00 pm CDT**.
5. Can I get assistance getting my fish to the scales? No, you are responsible for getting your fish to the scales to weigh. That is a part of the tournament itself. Getting back from offshore and getting the fish to the scales is the responsibility of the angler. Your boat and equipment are a part of the tournament process. The tournament staff cannot help you get in to weigh your fish. You must make decisions on which fish to weigh.
6. My boat is too big to get under the bridge in the canal at Mexico Beach. What can I do? You have several options. Park a truck on the canal for use when you get to the canal, then take fish out of boat and put into truck and drive over to **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp**. If your boat is too big to use the canal, park the boat wherever you left from and put your fish in your truck and bring the fish to the canal. Bringing the fish to the weigh station is the responsibility of the anglers on each boat. You can drive a truck up to the scales or come in by boat. Be on time--scales close at **6:00 pm CDT** on Saturday.
7. If I am in line at the weigh-in and it gets to be 6:00 pm, can I still weigh my fish? Yes. The tournament director will blow a horn at 6:00 pm and any fisherman inline at the scales with their fish and recognized by the Weighmaster/Staff will be allowed to weigh their fish. No exceptions.
8. How do I secure my place at the weigh-in if there is a line at closing time? Be in line with your fish at the scales and recognized by the Weighmaster/Staff by 6:00 PM CDT. No exceptions!

9. What time will the Mexico Beach Marina open for gas and bait? Mexico Beach Marina is scheduled to open at 5:00 am CDT; however, their schedule is not controlled by MBARA. If you want to get an early start, we highly recommend you make your purchases prior to the tournament date. Mexico Beach Marina is on Highway 98 on the Mexico Beach canal. They do not allow trailers in their parking lot so you may need to fuel from the canal.
10. Can I come down Saturday morning and register? NO. If you anticipate a problem pre-register online.
11. Do I have to be a member of MBARA to fish in the tournament? No, but we encourage you to join, helping us to build more reefs. You can go to the website at www.mbara.org to print and mail in a membership form or join online. You can also sign up to be a member at the Captains Party. Membership is only \$40 a year. MBARA is an all-volunteer organization and no one receives compensation for the work they do, maximizing the funds that go to reef building, education, and research.
12. Do I get a free T-shirt when I register? The free short sleeve T-shirt is given out at the Captains Party if you wait to register at the party. If you preregistered, you get a long sleeve performance tournament shirt. Bring your online registration receipt to claim your long sleeve performance tournament shirt at the Captains Party and registration on Friday night at the **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp**. You may also take your registration receipt to the Mexico Beach Marina before or after the tournament to claim your long sleeve shirt.
13. How can I get more T-shirts? T-shirts are sold in Mexico Beach at Mexico Beach Marina and Port St Joe at Piggly Wiggly. You can also order them online at www.mbara.org. Get 'em while they last!
14. Can I get a refund? NO. This is a charity event to raise money to help MBARA build more reefs, conduct research, and provide education to the public on the benefits of the reef building effort.
15. Where can I get an official tournament magazine? Tournament magazines will be available in May. They're available in Mexico Beach at the Mexico Beach Marina and in Port St. Joe at Blue Water Outriggers, as well as other sponsors.
16. How does the payment count for who is fishing? Registration is \$200 per boat. You can fish as many people as you like on each boat. Optional entries for Juniors and Ladies divisions are \$25.00 each division.

17. What about the parties? On Friday night we have a great sausage and gumbo cookout with soft drinks and beer at the **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp**. The Bay County Sheriff department Cooking Team will grill up huge quantities of sausage made fresh for our event by Salt Lick Sausage. Additionally, Sam and Sharon Sullivan have agreed to cook their award-winning gumbo. *Sausage and gumbo will be served from 5:00 pm until 6:00 pm at the **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp**.* There will be registration, door prizes, and lots of socializing among old friends. The Captains Meeting starts at 6:00 pm where rules will be clarified and questions answered. Tables and chairs will be very limited and you're encouraged to bring your beach chairs.

18. Where is the weigh-in? The weigh-in is at **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp on the north side of Hwy 98 on the west end of Mexico Beach. The vehicle entrance is from Hwy 98 west of the Mexico Beach Canal Bridge.** There will be a large leader board posted.

19. How many door prizes can I win? Only one door prize per boat for the MBARA Tournament. This allows more winners.

20. I would like to donate a door prize. Please contact Capt Mitch at mcoleman54@yahoo.com to make your request no later than 30 days prior to the tournament for approval.

21. Can I register early? Yes. You can preregister online. Go to <https://www.mbara.org/tournament-registration.cfm> . **This will get you a very nice long sleeve performance tournament shirt valued at over \$30.00.**

22. How much fun can I have? This will be a fun and memorable weekend. Historically, we have people who register a boat just to join the party and support MBARA without fishing the tournament. However, this year with the new divisions and more ways to win, we really want to get families fishing together in the tournament again.

23. If I am late to the scales on Saturday afternoon, can I still weigh and enter my fish? No

24. How do you keep from having a tie? Ties are not possible. Fish weighed are ranked in the order they are weighed. The first fish of equal weight takes precedence. So a 40.33-pound kingfish weighed in at 2:00 pm will rank higher than a 40.33-pound kingfish weighed in at 2:30 pm.

25. What if I have a protest or complaint? Put it in writing and hand it to Captain Mitch Coleman, Tournament Director **with a \$200 cash deposit**. He will immediately meet with the Tournament Committee for a resolution. The decision of the committee is final. **See Rule 12 above for more important details regarding refund/forfeiture of deposits.**
26. What if I have a suggestion? Any and all suggestions are welcome. We want this to be a friendly tournament. Contact Captain Mitch Coleman MBARA tournament director with any suggestions or comments.
27. Do I get a T-shirt? Yes. You pick it up at registration/Captains Party on Friday night with a copy of your registration or online registration receipt at the **Mexico Beach Boat Ramp**. One per registration. **Additional short sleeve T-shirts will be available at the current retail cost of \$22.00 and \$24.00 each.** Each one you buy helps support our organization's efforts to build more reefs. Early registration will get a very nice long sleeve performance tournament shirt.
28. What about door prizes? Door prizes are given out on Friday night at the Captains Party **at 6:00 pm CDT**. You must be there to win.
29. Can I help? We usually have a crew lined up, but some help may be needed, especially with teardown and cleanup.
30. If I am late, can I still weigh a fish? NO. No exceptions. But you can still get your photo taken as long as our photographer is still on site.
31. How do you monitor starting time of fishing? There is no way we can monitor the entire fishing area. All participants are on the honor-system and we trust you to do the right thing. Winners will also be subject to lie detector tests.
32. Where can I read about the tournament? Several magazines and newspapers cover the event. The STAR is coming this year for pictures and a story. Look for it on the shelves.
33. If I win, will my picture be on the front of the next year's magazine? No. It will go on our annual winners' pages inside the magazine each year as a tournament legacy.
34. Can I buy a shirt now? You can buy them in Mexico Beach at Mexico Beach Marina and Port St Joe at Piggly Wiggly. You can also order them online at www.mbara.org. Get 'em while they last!
35. What are the T-shirt sizes? S, M, L, XL, XXL, and XXXL.

36. How much are they? **\$22.00 and \$24.00 each** if purchased at the Captains Party. We keep them priced low and they are top quality.
37. What about the Seafood Cookbook? We have printed it again. They are available at local merchants and online at www.mbara.org.
38. How can I find the artificial reef sites? You can find a list of all our reefs on the MBARA web site, www.mbara.org. We also have new GPS site cards with the numbers of all known artificial reefs in our permit sites. They are waterproof and very high quality. In addition, you can order SD cards containing our waypoints for many GPS devices. Check our online store at www.mbara.org.
39. Where do I put my boat? This question has several answers. Mexico Beach has an excellent boat ramp where you can launch your boat and park your trailer. Also, you can call the City of Mexico Beach and reserve a slip or a space along the canal walkway where you can tie up (850 648 5700). Port St. Joe also has a boat ramp at Frank Pate Park.
40. If we lose our registration form, can we still weigh a fish? Yes. Unlike past years, you can weigh your fish without showing a copy of your registration. We will have a list of all registered boats and captains and you will sign it when you weigh your fish. However, you are still required to keep your yellow registration form or online receipt in case there is a question about your registration. Be prepared to produce your registration if requested.
41. Who do contact if I have another question? Contact Capt Mitch Coleman, tournament director of the MBARA kingfish tournament and he will get back to you ASAP (mexicobeachreefs@gmail.com).
42. What if my boat blows an engine on Friday while I am catching bait and I have already pre-registered, can I change my registration to another boat? Yes, as long as you do it on Friday before close of registration, or any day before Friday. Just contact the tournament director. You CANNOT change boats on Saturday, the day of the tournament.
43. How can I help MBARA build more reefs? You can become a member of MBARA or donate; we are a tax-deductible organization. We use your donations as matching funds to get larger grants. We are building reefs all the time, and our latest project is 3 to 18 miles out. Remember us in November and December when you are giving to your charities for tax purposes. Also, consider sponsoring a reef which you will get to name, or building a memorial reef to honor your loved ones.

44. If I register in the Ladies and Juniors Divisions, can my boat win more than one prize?

Yes, for example, dad caught the big king in the recreational division, but mom and kids are entered and also have kings to weigh from same boat entry, those can be weighed in the division caught and will be eligible to win. Juniors and ladies aboard boats in both the OPM or Recreational divisions are eligible to register and compete in the Juniors and Ladies Divisions. Juniors must be under 16 as of the scheduled day of the tournament and Ladies Division must be 16 years or older as of the scheduled tournament day.